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a display control step of controlling a display unit to display information based on the font registration information referred to in said reference step;

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a font registration step of downloading the font data to the printing apparatus for registration; and

a transmission step of transmitting registration information, indicating the font data downloaded in said font registration step, to the management apparatus so as to update the font registration information retained in the management apparatus, based on the registration information.

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#### REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 6, 2002. Claims 24-59 are presented for examination and have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1-23 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 24, 31-33, 40-42, 49-51, 58, and 59 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

A Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for this application were submitted on December 30, 1999, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

The Office Action states that the title of the invention is not descriptive. The

title has been amended to read as follows: --METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMMUNICATING FONT REGISTRATION INFORMATION--. Applicant respectfully submits that the title, as amended, is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-7 and 9-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,933,584 (Maniwa). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,990 (Card et al.). Cancellation of Claims 1-23 renders their rejections moot.

Applicant submits that new independent Claims 24, 31-33, 40-42, 49-51, 58, and 59, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 24 is directed to a host computer that communicates with a management apparatus, which manages fonts, and a printing apparatus via a predetermined communication line. The host computer includes a reference unit, a display control unit, a font registration unit, and a transmission unit.

The reference unit is adapted to refer to font registration information that includes information specifying a font. The font registration information is retained in the management apparatus. The display control unit controls a display unit to display information based on the font registration information. The font registration unit downloads font data to the printing apparatus for registration. The transmission unit transmits registration information, indicating the downloaded font data, to the management apparatus so as to update the font

registration information retained in the management apparatus, based on the registration information.

One important feature of Claim 24 is that, in situations in which font data is downloaded from a host computer to a printer in the network, it is possible to confirm which font data has been downloaded to the printer.

Maniwa, as understood by Applicant, relates to a network system that includes a plurality of workstations, a print server machine, and a plurality of printers (see Fig. 1). Apparently, upon receipt of a print file from one of the workstations to be printed by one of the printers, the print server machine confirms whether a suitable font is registered in the printer prior to transferring the print file to the printer. If a desired font is registered in the printer, then the font is used. If not, the print server machine downloads the desired font to the printer.

Card et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a virtual font cartridge loaded onto a data storage device. Card et al. was cited in the Office Action for disclosing "that the memory of printing apparatus is an external memory annexed to printing apparatus."

Applicant submits that a combination of Maniwa and Card et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a host computer that communicates with a management apparatus and a printing apparatus via a predetermined communication line, wherein the host computer includes "a reference unit adapted to refer to font registration information that includes information specifying a font, wherein the font registration information is retained in the management apparatus," and "a transmission unit adapted to transmit registration information, indicating the font data downloaded by said font registration

unit, to the management apparatus so as to update the font registration information retained in the management apparatus, based on the registration information," as recited in Claim 24.

As discussed above, Maniwa is understood to teach that the print server machine confirms with the printer whether a suitable font is registered in the printer. Thus, the Maniwa system would not need to communicate with a management apparatus, which manages fonts, because the Maniwa system apparently must communicate with the printer before a print file is transferred to the printer. Further, the Maniwa system would have no need to update font registration information retained in a management apparatus, because the Maniwa system would have no need to communicate with a management apparatus. Applicant submits that Card et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Maniwa. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 24 is patentable over Maniwa and Card et al., considered separately or in combination.

Independent Claims 33, 42, and 51 are method, storage medium, and computer program product claims corresponding to Claim 24, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above. Additionally, independent Claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 49, 50, 58, and 59 include reference and transmission features similar to those discussed above. Accordingly, Claims 31, 32, 40, 41, 49, 50, 58, and 59 also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.


The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is

respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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